

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified application filed December 28, 2001. With this Amendment, please add claims 17-21.

Consideration and favorable action are respectfully submitted.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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-4-

**MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMS**

17. (New) A handle for coupling to an apparatus used in implanting a heart prosthetic, comprising:

an elongate shaft, a gripping portion coupled to one end of the elongate shaft, the gripping portion including ribs; and

a tip coupled to the other end of the shaft, the tip including a knob configured to be locked in the apparatus and an abutting surface configured to abut the apparatus.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the handle includes flat portions.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the tip includes walls and the flat portions of the handle are aligned with the walls of the tip.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the tip includes walls.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the walls are tapered.

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